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Executive Registry 84 - 2661

19 June 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Leaks

At lunch with od

oday he reviewed with me where his group has come out on leaks. They,

together with Gene Rostow, who has been advising on the legal aspect of the problem, believe there is no basis for granting reporters immunity or a "shield." They are recommending that the President select a case where national security is clearly involved with no political overtones. The reporter would be brought before a grand jury and asked for his sources. Their research indicates that there is no legal or constitutional basis for his withholding this information. Instead of putting him in the slammer, they would hold him in contempt and require the publisher of the story to pay so many dollars for each day the reporter refuses to respond. They claim there is ample precedent for this but they are awaiting Rostow's legal opinion before moving. The next step will be to take it up with the President directly (no staff, no leaks), probably not until later in the year.

William J. Casey

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